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Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives

Letter dated 13 August 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I would like to refer to General Assembly resolution 67/94, on the consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives, and to draw your attention to the following.

On 21 July 2013 at 10 a.m., in the city of Sana, Yemen, Mr. Ahmad Nikbakht, a staff member of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Sana, was abducted by armed men and moved to an unknown location. The entity of the armed men is still unknown and they made no contact after the abduction.

Immediately after the incident, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in a telephone conversation with his Yemeni counterpart, expressed serious concern over the horrible crime and asked the Yemeni authorities to take every measure to rescue the abducted member of the Iranian Embassy. Furthermore, several notes reminding the obligations and duties of the host country concerning the safety and security of members of the diplomatic missions were sent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Yemen. The Iranian Embassy in Yemen followed the case with utmost urgency and the chargé d'affaires of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Sana met with the Interior Minister of Yemen. The Islamic Republic of Iran called upon the Yemeni authorities to expedite measures to ensure the immediate and safe release of the abducted person and to bring the criminals to justice. The Government of Yemen was also urged to take all necessary measures to enhance the safety and security of Iranian diplomatic and consular missions and representatives in Yemen and to ensure that such a criminal incident would not recur.

In this regard, I would like to seek your cooperation and your good offices in securing the release of the hostage. The kind cooperation of the relevant United Nations offices in responding to this request of the Government and the family of the hostage would be highly appreciated.

I would be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 81.

(*Signed*) Mohammad **Khazaee**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative